

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the office action mailed March 17, 2004. In the office action the Examiner allowed claims 1, 3-10, 12-15 and 17-19, but rejected claims 20-28. Claims 20-26 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Shin, US 5,874,844 and claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shin in view of O'Shaughnessy et al, U.S. 4,859,873.

In addition, claims 1, 10 and 15 were objected to for various informalities.

Claims 1, 10 and 15 have been amended to correct the numbering of the transistors and to provide the definite article in subsequent references to the power supply node and the reference node. These changes do not alter the scope of these claims. With respect to the recitation of the control signal, it is respectfully submitted that the recitation at lines 11-12 is correct in the form previously presented in that each second (now sixth) transistor has a control terminal for receiving a control signal. Similarly, at lines 20-21, each second (now eighth) transistor has a control terminal for receiving a control signal. However, as the Examiner appreciates, the control signals received need not be identical. Under these circumstances, it is appropriate to use the indefinite article at lines 14 and 24 of claim 1 when referring to the control signal.

With respect to the rejection of claims 20-23, claim 20 has been amended to emphasize that only one circuit in the first plurality of source follower circuits and only one circuit in the second plurality of source followers circuits is selected at any one time. Claim 24 has likewise been amended to specify that only one source follower circuit is selected at any one time. Thus, if one of the source follower circuits is selected, the others are off. As the Examiner notes in paragraph 7 of the Office Action, this is not the case in the Schmitt trigger circuit disclosed by Shin. Accordingly, claims 20-24 are believed patentable over Shin.

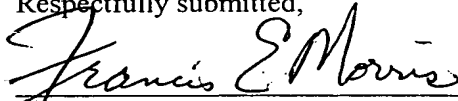
Independent method claim 25 and dependant claims 26-28 are believed patentable for the same reason claim 20 is patentable. Claim 25 specifies, "selecting one of a first plurality of independent parallel source follower circuits to provide a first desired signal path." As in the case of claim 20, where one source follower circuit is selected, the other circuits are not. Since this is not the case in Shin, these claims are also believed to be patentable over Shin.

With respect to the drawing requirement, a proposed drawing correction to Fig. 4 is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's approval.

In light of the above amendments, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining items.

Date: July 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Francis E. Morris

MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

3300 Hillview Avenue

Palo Alto, California 94304

(650) 493-4935

24,615

(Reg. No.)